

R E M A R K S

By the foregoing amendments, claims 10-23 have been canceled, without prejudice. Thus, claims 1-9 currently are pending and are subject to examination in the above-captioned patent application. No new matter is added by the forgoing amendments, and these amendments are fully supported by the specification. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the above-captioned patent application.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-captioned patent application is in condition for allowance, and such an issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned representative at the number listed below.

In the event that this paper is not considered to be timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Applicants believe that no fees are due as a result of this submission. Nevertheless, in the event of any variance between the fees determined by Applicants and those determined by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, please charge any such variance to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,



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